

Hawaii MARINE ON POINT

HAWAII MARINE D SECTION

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Art is ... all around

North Shore artist makes waves in Anderson Hall

Cpl. Michelle M. Dickson
Combat Correspondent

"I can't just create something beautiful out of absolutely nothing," said the 55-year-old husband and father of 11. "But I have the talent and ability to create something beautiful from something else."

Many people have heard of the artist named Ron Artis. Some know him as a painter, others as a talented music composer and director.

But even as Artis continues to create such masterpieces as the mural painting in the Anderson Hall Mess Hall aboard MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, he remembers what he loves, to be nestled in the tiny town of

Haleiwa.

Born in Wichita Falls, Texas, the self-proclaimed "military brat" said he lived in cities and towns all over the world. After high school, Artis joined the Navy and was stationed in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. Growing up, the "American brat" enjoyed art and music so much he decided to make a career out of it.

"I have always been influenced by any type of music or art that's in good taste," said Artis. "Growing up, I bathed myself in music and raw, charismatic talent has gotten me to the levels I have reached."

Artis was a keyboard player and composed music with huge names such as Michael Jackson, Stevie Wonder and Van Halen — among a variety of others.

Throughout the years, Artis continued to paint while working with music. Fourteen years ago, he moved to the island of Oahu, and he hasn't stopped painting yet. He has painted more than 800 murals while living here, though he hasn't always been a North Shore resident. His first home on Oahu was in Kailua.

After the tragedy on Sept.

Above — Artistic creations welcome passers-by to Artis' home.

Right — Born in Wichita Falls, Texas, Artis, the self-proclaimed "military brat," now lives and works in Haleiwa.

11, Chief Warrant Officer Douglas F. Brush, former food service officer for K-Bay, asked Artis if he would uplift the Anderson Hall Mess Hall. "Doug came to me in my gallery in Kailua and presented the idea of possibly creating something that could really improve the morale of the military who came through there," said Artis. "We had a meeting with others involved, and I was happy to have the opportunity to do this."

The tropical masterpiece now graces the facility and those who pass by and take a closer look will see that there are a lot of hidden surprises that are strewn about the work, according to Artis.

"I had a lot of fun with this painting and added a lot of things that people wouldn't even notice without studying the photo," said Artis. "There are training operations, and even little snipers hidden in the rocks

and things."

Artis said it wasn't just him; he had the cooperation of Marines who took time to help paint. It was a combined effort that made it all work.

"It was never just something that I created on my own," said Artis. "I put my piece in, and everyone else put in theirs to make it a success. It would have been a failure without

their support."

As of this moment Artis remains with his family in Haleiwa and has not made any plans for the future, yet.

"If you plan things, it goes against the creative process," said Artis. "I don't plan anything out, I just like to take things one day at a time."



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Surfboards, sculpted and painted by Artis, are scattered throughout the lawn of the artists home on Oahu's North Shore.



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Above and left — Ron Artis paints certain types of images depending on the occasion he is painting for. Many paintings, such as this turtle and eagle painted on one of the walls at Anderson Hall Mess Hall, have subtle hidden images. Looking closely, one may notice the turtle's eye reflects an American flag and that the pendant it wears (inset photo) gives homage to the events of 9-11. The eagle's eyes also contain images — one eye shows the statue of liberty and the other, the Twin Towers of the World Trade Center.



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